

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Amorphous silica particles, wherein an oil absorption measured by JISK 6217-4 (a carbon black for rubber-basic characteristics) is more than 400ml/100g,

the maximum value of $\Delta V_p/\Delta \log R_p$ (where V_p is the pore volume [mm^3/g] and R_p is the pore radius [nm]) is $250 \text{ mm}^3/\text{nm}\cdot\text{g}$ or more in the pore distribution curve obtained by the nitrogen adsorption isotherm method, and

pore peak radius when the $\Delta V_p/\Delta \log R_p$ value is maximum is 3 nm or more 15 to 100 nm.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The amorphous silica particles according to Claim 1, wherein

the maximum value of $\Delta V_p/\Delta \log R_p$ (where V_p is the pore volume [mm^3/g] and R_p is the pore radius [nm]) is $500 \text{ mm}^3/\text{nm}\cdot\text{g}$ or more in the pore distribution curve obtained by the nitrogen adsorption isotherm method, and

the pore peak radius when the $\Delta V_p/\Delta \log R_p$ value is maximum is 10 nm or more 15 to 100 nm.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The amorphous silica particles according to Claim 2, wherein

the maximum value of $\Delta V_p/\Delta \log R_p$ (where V_p is the pore volume [mm^3/g] and R_p is the pore radius [nm]) is $1000 \text{ mm}^3/\text{nm}\cdot\text{g}$ or more in the pore distribution curve obtained by the nitrogen adsorption isotherm method, and

the pore peak radius when the $\Delta V_p/\Delta \log R_p$ value is maximum is 15 nm or more to
 100 nm .

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The amorphous silica particles according to ~~any one~~ of Claims Claim 1 to 3, wherein the average particle size is 0.5 to 40 μm .

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The amorphous silica particles according to ~~any one~~ of Claims Claim 1 to 4, wherein the bulk density is 20 to 200 g/l.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The amorphous silica particles according to ~~any one~~ of Claim 1 to 5, obtained by baking.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing amorphous silica, ~~wherein the process comprising baking silica particles having an oil absorption of at least 340ml/100g are baked at 200 – 990°C for 1 minute to 10 hours.~~

Claim 8 (Canceled)

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process as claimed in Claim 7 or 8, wherein the time for baking is 10 minutes to 5 hours.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process as claimed in ~~Claims 8 to 9~~
Claim 7, wherein the resulting amorphous silica exhibits an oil absorption of more than 400
ml/100 g.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process as claimed in ~~any one of Claims~~
Claim 7 to 10, further comprising the step of reacting at least one alkali metal silicate with at
least one mineral acid.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process as claimed in ~~any of Claims~~
Claim 7 to 11, further comprising the step of adjusting the pH value of the final silica to 3 to
10 either before or after the drying of the silica slurry.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): Use A method of using a silica, the method
comprising
mixing the amorphous silica particles as claimed in any of Claims Claim 1 to 6
in a coating material as a matting agent, or
in pharmaceuticals or agrochemicals as a carrier for pharmaceuticals or
agrochemicals , or
in a rubber as a reinforcing agent for various rubbers.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): An adsorbent for pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals,
comprising the amorphous silica particles ~~according to~~ any one of ~~Claims~~ Claim 1 to 6.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A matting agent, comprising the amorphous silica particles ~~according to any one~~ of Claim 1 to 6.